

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 383

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION recognizing Craig C. Christina.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those individuals who have dedicated their lives in service to God, their religion, and their congregations; and

WHEREAS, Craig C. Christina is one such individual who, after pastoring the First Baptist Church in Jackson for the past six years, will soon be relocating to Texas; and

WHEREAS, devout in his belief, Mr. Christina, who garnered his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Baylor University in 1991, earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1994 from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; he continued his theological education, earning a Doctor of Philosophy degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2001; and

WHEREAS, his pastoral experience includes his service in Jackson, which was preceded by terms of service at the First Baptist Church in Duncan, Oklahoma, Ryker's Ridge Baptist Church in Madison, Indiana, and Heritage Southern Baptist Church in Vincennes, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, committed to the importance of education, Craig Christina stood as an adjunct professor of preaching at both Union University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, widely respected for his views, Mr. Christina has gained publication in a number of periodicals, including the *Baptist and Reflector*, the *Journal of American Academy of Ministry*, three issues of the *Abingdon Preaching Annual Preaching Magazine*, and one biography, *The Life and Legacy of John A. Broadus*; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Craig Christina has been honored as a Trustee of Union University and presently stands as chair of its Campus Ministries and Church Relations subcommittee, and he has served as the Senate Chaplain for the states of Tennessee and Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his communities, Mr. Christina is a Paul Harris Fellow with the Jackson Rotary Club, participated in Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, and was a member of the Race Relations Task Force organized by the Jackson Area Ministerial Association; and

WHEREAS, he is perhaps proudest of the love and support he shares with his wife, Tracy Neff Christina, and their two children, Victoria Marie Christina and Garrett Andrew Christina; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this Body recognize Craig Christina for his long history of good works and his commitment to the people of Jackson and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby offer our best wishes to Craig C. Christina as he departs Tennessee for what is surely a future of great works within the State of Texas and extend our deepest gratitude for his years of service to the citizens of this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.